

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



Five Years in
the Making—
Looking Ahead

CORNERSTONES IN ACTION



Cornerstones in Action: 2025 Annual Report

American Cornerstone Institute (ACI) entered 2025 with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. Because of your support, we remained anchored to what matters most—continuing to invest in the enduring cultural and civic foundations that strengthen families, cultivate informed and engaged citizens of character, and form the next generation to seek truth and cherish liberty.

In a moment of renewed national leadership and opportunity, our focus remained steady. Refreshed and emboldened, we continued the long work of formation: work that begins in homes and classrooms, takes shape in communities, and prepares leaders to serve with integrity and care.

This report reflects both what has been accomplished and what lies ahead. It is our way of saying thank you—and of showing how your partnership is helping build a legacy that endures.

ACI Cornerstones



Faith



Liberty



Community



Life

Letter from Dr. Ben Carson

Dear Friend,

When I founded the American Cornerstone Institute, my hope was simple: to give Americans a place to come together around four enduring principles—Faith, Liberty, Community, and Life—and to pass those values on to our children.

ACI began with a conviction that remains just as urgent today: a nation thrives when it invests in character, responsibility, and a clear understanding of the principles that make freedom possible. Since then, I have seen that conviction come to life in classrooms filled with curious young learners, in conversations that bring clarity rather than division, and in leaders stepping forward with a renewed sense of responsibility.

In 2025, our mission felt more important than ever. We continued to see declining trust in institutions, rising division, and a generation of young people who too often hear more criticism of America than appreciation for her promises. At the same time, we saw something hopeful: parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and citizens asking, “How can we help?”

Because of your support, ACI was able to expand the Little Patriots program, advance our Common Sense Papers, further lay the groundwork for Executive Branch for America, and begin bringing a major Freedom 250 storytelling project to life. We were also grateful to gather friends and partners at our annual Founders’ Dinner to reflect on progress made and to look ahead together.

None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for choosing to invest in an organization that believes America is worth understanding, worth improving, and worth passing on.

With gratitude,



Dr. Ben Carson, Sr.

Founder, American Cornerstone Institute



Five Years in the Making

The American Cornerstone Institute was founded in 2021 with a simple conviction: that a nation endures when it strengthens its moral and civic foundations and intentionally passes those values on to the next generation.

Over the past five years, that conviction has taken shape in tangible ways—through curricula taught, ideas published, leaders equipped, families supported, and communities convened. What began as a clear vision has grown into a trusted institution working across education, policy, leadership development, and civic life.

The year 2025 marked a foundation of growth. Early investments began to bear visible fruit, and the foundation laid since 2021 positioned ACI to meet the opportunities and responsibilities ahead with clarity, courage, and resolve.



2025 At a Glance

- **Little Patriots** reached families and classrooms across all 50 states and internationally.
- **Common Sense Papers** expanded, offering clear explanations of complex policy issues and disseminated to hundreds of thousands of individuals across America.
- **Executive Branch for America** developed foundational training and outreach that bore fruit for the incoming administration.
- **ACI's message** reached millions through media, podcasts, and newsletters.
- We hosted President Donald J. Trump at our **Founders' Dinner** and honored Chief of Staff Susie Wiles with our **Founders' Award**.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Little Patriots

Teaching Children to Love and Understand Their Country

Little Patriots exists to help children learn American history and civics in a way that is accurate, hopeful, and engaging. At a time when many young people encounter America primarily through criticism or caricature, Little Patriots offers a positive and fact-based alternative.

The program provides a comprehensive civics and history curriculum for elementary-aged children, including dozens of engaging courses, free online videos and activities, pocket Constitutions, educator training, and faith-based supplemental lessons.

Dr. Carson knows that young learners are capable of grasping complex history and big ideas. Children can understand concepts like liberty, courage, and sacrifice when these lessons are presented in an age-appropriate and engaging way. In fact, we believe that waiting until middle school to teach these ideas is one reason our nation has missed the opportunity to cultivate true civic literacy and patriotism. Little Patriots was founded on this conviction.



Little Patriots provides a comprehensive civics and history program for elementary-aged children that offers:

- Thirty-nine engaging courses on American history, civics, and the founding documents, thoughtfully designed to inspire patriotism in young learners. More new courses planned for 2026.
- Free **courses, videos, and activities** that families and teachers can access anytime.
- **Pocket Constitutions** and printed materials that put America's founding documents directly into children's hands.
- Faith-based supplemental lessons designed for families and faith-based schools, helping children understand how faith shaped our nation and how personal faith informs civic responsibility.
- Professional development to equip educators to use the curriculum with confidence and effectiveness.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Little Patriots



Our Educator Prep videos dispel the myths surrounding teaching a values-based curriculum to students and provide a factual, historically accurate, and developmentally appropriate foundation for those who teach young learners.

With these free resources, educators can move forward with courage and confidence that what they are teaching their students is historically accurate and free from bias.

Educator Prep Videos

In 2025, we launched a Teach the Teacher Initiative with **Little Patriots Educator Prep**, videos designed to help educators understand the underlying principles of our lessons, why they are important, and how to use our resources. These groundbreaking videos feature acclaimed and renowned historians and academics—such as Professor Robert George on the foundations of religious liberty in our founding and Grover Norquist on taxation and the Stamp Act—who provide the necessary background to equip educators.

The creation of this new resource came from the recognition that systemic constraints in how teachers are trained, supported, and evaluated provide a broad pedagogy training, but not the depth and nuance of history needed for foundational values. Additionally, we realized that many teachers shy away from historical content for fear of controversy. Our Educator Prep videos dispel the myths surrounding teaching a values-based curriculum to students and provide a factual, historically accurate, and developmentally appropriate foundation for those who teach young learners.

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Little Patriots

Patriotic Pages Summer Reading Challenge

Inspired by Dr. Carson's mother who challenged her sons to read, in 2025, we launched the Patriotic Pages Summer Reading Challenge, encouraging students to explore books on topics related to American history and complete book reports on their readings.

We provided a book report template and challenged students to read ten books between June 15 and August 15. Reading not only helps students become stronger learners, but it also cultivates informed and engaged citizens who understand America's past, present, and future. Participation was enthusiastic, and students who completed the challenge received certificates and additional resources to continue learning.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Little Patriots

Little Patriots continues to grow in influence and reach:

- Endorsements from the **governors of Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma** signal broad trust in the quality and impact of our curriculum.
- Collaborations with institutions such as the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum, the South Carolina Independent School Association, Turning Point Education Association, the Herzog Foundation, and the Association of Christian Schools International are allowing us to reach more audiences with lessons that inspire and honor true American heroes.
- A continued and strengthened partnership with the Texas Homeschool Coalition, supporting homeschool students and families across Texas and beyond.
- **A new book authored by Dr. Carson for students in grades Kindergarten through second grade on the role of faith in America's founding**, a critical and often misunderstood topic. With publisher Brave Books, this new book will ensure young learners gain a clear understanding of how faith shaped our nation.
- Little Patriots' Star Spangled Adventures cartoon series streams with Real Life Network, Movieguide, TLN Media, and FaithChannel. You can also stream our cartoons on our own Little Patriots streaming app available on Roku and Fire Stick.



White House Task Force & Freedom 250

Little Patriots is excited to assist in the grand celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence. This partnership underscores ACI's growing role in shaping how the next generation will encounter America's story.

With more than 300,000 subscriptions, Little Patriots is used in public and private schools, homeschool co-ops, churches, and homes, meeting student and teacher needs in multiple settings nationwide. It has become one of the most trusted civics resources for families seeking to raise informed, grateful, and engaged young citizens.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Freedom 250 | Star Spangled Adventures: The Movie



As the nation approaches America's 250th birthday, ACI is investing in storytelling resources designed to endure beyond a single celebration.

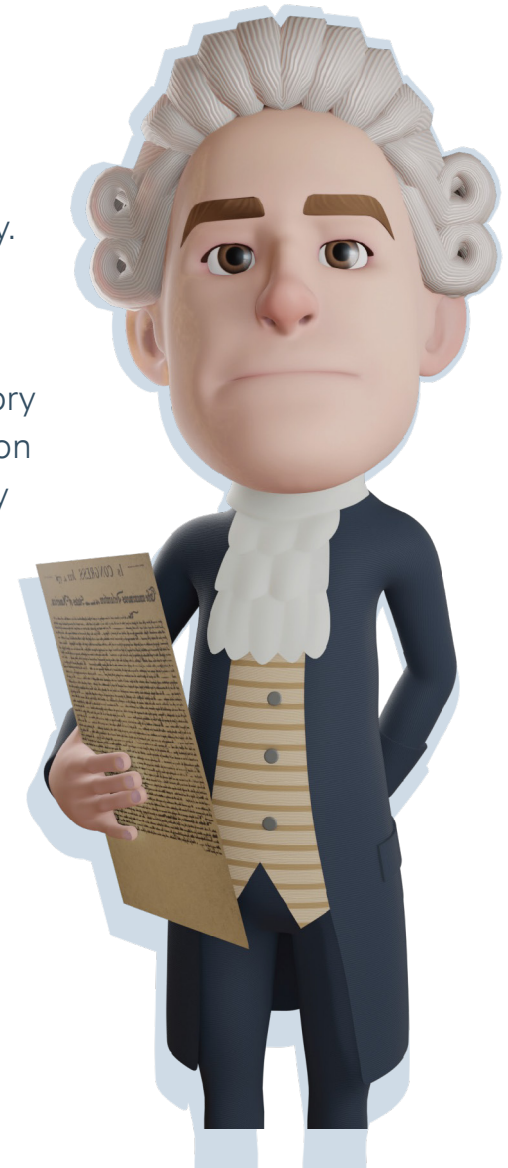
In 2025, ACI began production of **Star Spangled Adventures: The Movie**, a full-length animated musical film created to help children and families rediscover America's founding ideals. Through humor, music, and heart, the film brings history to life while reinforcing the meaning of the **Declaration of Independence** and the responsibilities that accompany liberty.

The story follows Liberty the Eagle as she uncovers the origins of America's freedom and confronts Tyrannus the Crow, who seeks to undermine the Declaration's promises. This film is intentionally aligned with ACI's Freedom 250 vision: helping children see that the American story is not just something we inherit, but something we must understand and steward. As Dr. Carson puts it, the fight for freedom "didn't end in 1776" —and the Declaration's promises endure only when we do our part.

The film features voice talent including Kevin Sorbo, Gary Sinise, Kirk Cameron, Alveda King, Dr. Ben Carson, and more.

As part of ACI's **Little Patriots** program—the movie complements the broader ecosystem of educational resources and episodes that ACI provides to families and educators.

With a star-studded premiere planned for the Trump Kennedy Center this summer, *Star Spangled Adventures: The Movie* will serve as a major storytelling tool as the nation marks Freedom 250—helping families celebrate with gratitude and equipping children to carry the principles of faith, liberty, community, and life into the next generation.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Common Sense Papers

Because Common Sense Isn't So Common Anymore

In an era ruled by sound bites, viral posts, and partisan talking points, many Americans are left confused about what policies actually mean for their families and communities. Complex issues are reduced to slogans; genuine nuance is lost. ACI's Common Sense Papers were created to bridge that gap. Rather than hundred-page white papers written in dense policy jargon, each Common Sense Paper is a short, focused brief that explains a single public policy issue in clear, relatable language. Grounded in credible research and conservative principles, these papers provide:

- The facts behind the issue.
- The context needed to understand why it matters.
- A common-sense, solutions-oriented perspective that respects both data and everyday experience.

Our aim is simple: turn down the temperature and make way for discussion and understanding. When Americans grasp the core of an issue—not just the headlines—they are better equipped to have civil, fact-based conversations at home, in their churches, and in their communities. Common Sense Papers empower citizens to form their own opinions and remind them that mending our national divide starts not with louder voices, but with thoughtful, better-informed ones.



To reach people where they are, we:

- Publish every Common Sense Paper as a **free resource on our website**.
- Repackage the content into **short-form videos, social media reels, and infographics** for Dr. Carson's millions of followers.
- Highlight key themes and topics on **Dr. Carson's podcast**, which has now surpassed 150 episodes, where guests and experts unpack the issues in greater depth.
- Share these resources through our **newsletter**, ensuring that thoughtful research doesn't gather dust but instead fuels informed, common-sense conversations across the country.

As Dr. Carson often says, it doesn't take a brain surgeon—it just takes some common sense!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Executive Branch for America (EBA)



In 2025, we advanced EBA by continuing to develop:

- **EBA 101** – A web-based, self-certification course that covers the foundational knowledge anyone considering service in the executive branch should have.
- An **EBA Resource Library** – A growing collection of interviews and materials featuring former administration officials from key offices such as the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of Management and Budget, Cabinet departments, and the White House Office of Public Liaison.

Putting the “We” Back in “We the People”

The modern federal **administrative state**—the vast network of agencies and departments that write, interpret, enforce, and even adjudicate regulations—touches nearly every part of American life. Yet too few conservatives understand how this machinery works, and even fewer are prepared to serve inside it to reform it from within.

EBA was created to prepare conservatives to serve effectively within the executive branch of government. While much attention is given to elections and courts, the day-to-day work of governance is carried out by executive agencies that shape policy implementation. The conservative legal movement has built a strong bench for the judiciary, but the tactical work of implementing policy is carried out by executive branch staff. When those roles are filled by people indifferent or hostile to conservative principles, even the best policies can be delayed, diluted, or derailed.

EBA is not just about theory; it’s about learning **how to work effectively inside the executive branch** to influence and change public policy. Reform requires more than good intentions; it requires strategic knowledge of how appointments are made, how rules are crafted, how budgets are shaped, and how agencies implement—or sometimes quietly resist—policy.

EBA seeks to **find, inspire, and equip the next generation of conservative public servants**—the people in the trenches defending policy from both the front and the flank.

Remembering Charlie Kirk: Turning Point USA Founder, ACI Partner, & Friend

On September 21, 2025, Dr. Ben Carson spoke at TPUSA's Charlie Kirk Memorial in Glendale, AZ, honoring Charlie's unwavering faith, steadfast patriotism, and enduring impact. This moment also marked a meaningful continuation of ACI's Executive Branch for America partnership with TPUSA—advancing our shared mission to equip the next generation of principled conservative leaders for public service. We are proud to continue the important work done by ACI and Charlie. We will not be deterred.

"Rest in peace, Charlie. It was a privilege to call you a friend and to witness your unwavering faith and love for our country. As Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.' (John 11:25) Your steadfast faith and patriotism will inspire Americans for generations to come. Candy and I send our heartfelt love and prayers to Erika and the children."

— Dr. Ben Carson



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Executive Branch for America (EBA)

We also invested in **outreach and talent identification**. In partnership with **Turning Point USA** and **Young America's Foundation**, Dr. Carson spoke to thousands of young students eager to serve their country.

Additional outreach through groups like **Leadership Institute** helps ACI connect with more students and young professionals who feel called to public service.

Building on this foundation, ACI is preparing to launch a **year-long EBA fellowship program**, offering in-depth education, mentorship, and growth opportunities for a select cohort of conservatives interested in public service.

Our goal is clear: when doors open to serve, there will be a ready pipeline of **principled, well-trained leaders** who understand both the Constitution and the practical realities of governing.



Outreach Locations

- Gonzaga University
- University of Washington
- Utah Valley University
- High Point University
- Victory Christian High School
- East Carolina University
- Louisiana State University
- Michigan State University
- Southern Methodist University
- University of Georgia
- University of Kentucky
- West Virginia University
- Ohio State University
- Florida State University
- Texas A&M University
- Auburn University
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Clemson University



ACI's prayer calls are more than just a recurring event; they are a **national network of intercessors** who share ACI's conviction that preserving faith, liberty, community, and life begins with prayer. Pastors reported sharing the calls with their congregations; lay leaders used the updates to guide their church prayer meetings; and many participants wrote to say that these monthly gatherings left them **more hopeful, more informed, and more resolved** to engage their communities with courage and grace.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Prayer Calls

ACI's **National Prayer Calls with Dr. Ben Carson** continue to grow from a simple idea into a steady heartbeat for our work. Every month, pastors, ministry leaders, and friends of ACI dial in from across the country to pray for our nation, its leaders, and the next generation. Call after call, a quiet confidence continues to grow—God is stirring something new in our country, and a genuine revival is coming, beginning in individuals' hearts and local churches. In 2025, we saw encouraging signs across the nation as well, from surging Bible sales to reports of more young people filling church pews, student conferences, and campus ministries than we've seen in years.

As we look ahead to America's 250th birthday, ACI's call for national prayer stands out as one of the quiet but essential ways ACI is helping to undergird this moment in history with what it needs most: **a praying people seeking God's guidance for our country.**

Each call followed a simple but powerful pattern:

1. **A word from Dr. Carson** – a Scripture reflection and a few minutes of encouragement drawn from his decades in medicine, public service, and ministry.
2. **An update from the front lines** – often featuring a guest from inside the administration, Congress, or a faith leader, sharing how God is at work and where prayer is most needed.
3. **Focused, specific prayer** to build our spiritual health, provide direction and connection, and remind us that God sees us, hears us, and loves us.



Founders' Dinner

Our annual Founders' Dinner has become a cherished tradition—a moment to reflect, reconnect, and recommit. We were honored to welcome President Donald J. Trump and to gather longtime supporters and new friends for an evening of gratitude and vision. We presented Chief of Staff Susie Wiles with our Founders' Award in recognition of her exemplary service to the country and for her commitment to the ACI cornerstones: Faith, Liberty, Community, and Life through her public service to the nation.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

The LEGACY PROGRAM

A Vision Rooted in Service and Stewardship

In 2025, ACI launched its **Legacy Program**, reflecting a belief long championed by its founder, Dr. Ben Carson: that the most meaningful work is not what we accomplish in a single moment, but what we pass on to those who follow.

Throughout his life as a physician, public servant, and man of faith, Dr. Carson has emphasized the importance of personal responsibility, character formation, and common sense thinking. Whether in the operating room, in government, or in civic life, his focus has consistently been on investing in people and institutions in ways that endure. The Legacy Program honors the philosophy that has guided Dr. Carson throughout his storied career and service.

The program provides supporters with an opportunity to partner with ACI in a forward-looking way—helping ensure that the principles of Faith, Liberty, Community, and Life continue to guide the formation of children, citizens, and leaders for generations to come. Legacy gifts support the long-term sustainability of ACI's core initiatives, including *Little Patriots*, *Common Sense Papers*, *Executive Branch for America*, and Freedom 250 resources designed to educate well beyond a single anniversary year.

For Dr. Carson, legacy is not about recognition or permanence for its own sake. It is about stewardship: caring responsibly for what has been entrusted to us and preparing the next generation to carry it forward with wisdom and humility. The launch of the Legacy Program in 2025 marked an important step in institutionalizing that mindset at ACI, ensuring that the organization is positioned to remain faithful to its mission and its Founder over the long term.

We are deeply grateful to the founding members of the Legacy Program whose generosity reflects this shared commitment. Their partnership honors Dr. Carson's conviction that when we invest with intention and foresight, we do more than support a cause—we help shape a future worth inheriting.



Executive Branch for America (EBA) Fellowship

Launching our first EBA fellowship cohort and building a sustainable pipeline of principled conservatives ready to serve in public service.



2026 Look Ahead



Freedom 250 & Star Spangled Adventures

Fully leveraging this historic milestone to teach children the truth about America's founding, including the release and promotion of *Star Spangled Adventures: The Movie*, the expansion of our Freedom 250 curriculum, a new children's book from Dr. Carson, and expanding resources for educators and families.



Reaching New Audiences with ACI's Message

Expanding our Common Sense Papers, refreshing our podcast, and hosting meaningful events—including gatherings with nationally recognized heroes and leaders—to bring our message to new audiences. Increasingly, Americans are getting their news and commentary from untraditional sources. ACI continues to expand our reach like never before.

Gratitude, Stewardship, & the Work Ahead

The American Cornerstone Institute was founded on the belief that the strength of a nation is measured not only by its policies or prosperity, but by the character of its people and the principles it chooses to pass on.

Five years in, that belief remains our guide. Because of your partnership, children are learning accurate and hopeful American history. Families, educators, and faith communities are equipped to teach civics and character with confidence. Citizens are gaining clarity on complex issues. And a new generation of leaders is being prepared to serve with wisdom, humility, and courage.

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, ACI is focused on ensuring that this moment becomes more than a celebration—it becomes an opportunity for renewal. The work ahead calls for formation: of children who understand liberty, of citizens prepared for thoughtful civic engagement, and of leaders committed to stewardship over power.

In the coming year, ACI will advance Freedom 250 initiatives, release *Star Spangled Adventures: The Movie*, launch the Executive Branch for America Fellowship, expand Common Sense Papers, refresh media platforms, and convene partners committed to strengthening America's civic culture.

As we look toward America's 250th birthday—and beyond—we do so with gratitude for what has been built and resolve for what lies ahead. The work of formation is never finished, but it is always worth doing. Together, we are not simply preserving ideas; we are stewarding an inheritance.

Thank you for standing with the American Cornerstone Institute. Through your prayers, engagement, and support, you are helping ensure that the blessings of faith, liberty, community, and life remain vibrant for generations to come.





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Thank you for your
continued support.